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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin
(Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viêt-Nam)

STUDY OF THE ENERGY MARKET FOR HOUSEHOLD, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

Quarterly Progress Report No.6

by

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I - INTRODUCTION

The study of the energy market for household, industrial and commercial uses in the four countries constituting the Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin was covered by the Plan of Operation published as document E/CN/H/WRD/MKG/L 69 Rev.2 of 31/10/62.

Operations began on March 1st, 1963. They have been described for the period between 1st March 1963 and 31st May 1964 in quarterly reports No.1,2,2,4 & 5.

This report covers our activities for the period from 1st June 1964 to 31st August 1964.

II - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED

The activities of the Mission included:

- completing the processing of the data from the detailed electricity consumption surveys;
- drafting of Points 2, 3 & 4 of reports concerning each country.

A special effort has been made in connexion with the reports on Cambodia and Thailand.

The description of work done in connexion with Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viêt-Nam is given below.

/ CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA

The final drafting of Points 1, 2 & 3 was completed during the quarterly period under review.

Some complementary information have been collected in the field of electricity data. This enabled us to partly fill the gaps that remained in the material pertaining to the consumption of self-producers and licensees. Thus, the study of consumption previsions (point 3) could be completed. We have now turned to the processing of data concerning the development programmes (point 4) and pilot districts (point 5). In addition, complementary data are sought to better assess the different economic alternatives in the field of equipment, as well as the respective benefits and drawbacks of the various possible solutions.

LAOS

The study of the data collected enabled us to develop a fairly representative statement of the present pattern, both in the economy and the electricity fields.

The drafting of the report is to begin very soon. It may however be feared that, at least in the economic field, the report be much less detailed than the others, owing to gaps resulting from the lack of accuracy of statistical data. However, the electrical data on the recent years, which are fairly complete, make it possible to evolve a more detailed study of Points 2 & 3.

/ THAILAND

THAILAND

The data on consumptions have been completed. They were sufficiently abundant to make a study on consumption previsions possible. According to the method outlined in Report No.5, previsions could be formulated in finalized form.

Activities, during the quarterly period under review, were accordingly devoted to the preparation of the final report. Points 1, 2 have thus been finalized, while preparation of Point 3 has been practically completed. Elements have been gathered for the study of Points 4 & 5 (programmes of equipment and pilot districts). Despite difficulties arising from the existence of numerous producing and distributing entities, normal headway could be made with data gathering. However, a number of crucial decisions have to be made shortly about the specifications of the networks to be installed (e.g. voltage of primary distribution) and it would be desirable to know the answers before the winding up of the Mission. Also, the progress of the equipment programmes now being implemented must be carefully followed with a view to working out the elements which must serve as a basis for the study of development programmes.

During the next quarterly period, activities will be devoted to the completion of the preparation of Point 3 (consumption previsions) as well as to the preparation and drafting of Points 4 & 5.

/ VIET-NAM

VIET-NAM

The collection of data relating to the economic situation has been pursued and completed. Then, these elements have been analyzed.

1 - Population

The data relating to population outside Saigon-Cholon being non-existent, we had to resort to estimations in connexion with the present and past population figures. This is essential for the preparation of previsions on electricity consumption for household uses.

2 - National product and national income

A survey of the Banque Nationale du Viêt-Nam on the national product has been completed. It related to the evaluation of the net domestic product at factor cost in 1960, 1961 & 1962. This means that we are in possession of estimates of the net domestic product, in the absence of estimates of the gross domestic product.

Serious difficulties were encountered in the assessment of added values for each branch. This work, however, is necessary to assessing the growth of the different branches, and, next, their energy consumptions in the past and in the future.

3 - Electricity

Three sampling surveys, previously made on the elctricity consumptions in Saigon-Cholon, covered the years 1954, 1962 & 1963. A last sampling survey had to be made for the year 1958 in order to determine the trend of consumptions during the period 1953 - 1960. The processing of the results of this last sampling will enable us to achieve the study of electricity consumption previsions.

/ During

During the quarterly period under review, the drafting of Point 1 (overall economic situation) was completed, except for the components relating to the evolution of economic aggregates (gross domestic product). The components relating to Point 2 (present & past situation of electricity production and consumption) have been collected and the drafting of this section is nearly completed.

During the next quarterly period, the study of Points 1 & 2 will be finally completed and the drafting of Point 3 will be undertaken, as the components have now been gathered. Also, data relating to the networks and equipment projects will be sought with a view to starting the study of Point 4 (development programmes) and 5 (pilot districts).

III - ESTIMATED PROGRESS OF THE SURVEY

CAMBODIA

The progress percentage is about 80%

LAOS

The progress percentage is about 40%

THAILAND

The progress percentage is about 75%

VIET-NAM

The progress percentage is about 65%

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